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Page 1 of 1

Attachment to Z-12938/82

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NPIC/IEG (10/82)

8 OCTOBER 1982

INCREASED MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHER PRODUCTION
TAE-RI BARRACKS AREA, NORTH KOREA

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1. (SWN) SIGNIFICANCE: AN INCREASE IN TRUCK-MOUNTED MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHER PRODUCTION WAS OBSERVED AT THE TAE-RI ROCKET LAUNCHER FABRICATION/ASSEMBLY PLANT [REDACTED]

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2. (SWN) REMARKS: FORTY TRUCK-MOUNTED BM-11 MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHERS (MRL) AND 17 TRUCK CHASSIS WERE OBSERVED IN THE FINAL ASSEMBLY AND TRANSHIPMENT AREA OF THE PLANT. THIS INCREASE IN PRODUCTION FOLLOWS A LULL AT THE PLANT DURING LATE 1981 AND EARLY 1982, WHEN NO MORE THAN 15 VEHICLES WERE OBSERVED. ACTIVITY AT THE PLANT BEGAN TO INCREASE [REDACTED] AND CONTINUED TO RISE TO THE HIGH LEVEL OBSERVED [REDACTED]

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(SWN) FIFTY-TWO OF THE VEHICLES AT THE PLANT HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE JAPANESE ISUZU MODEL TWD 20/21 TRUCK CHASSIS. THE ISUZU CHASSIS HAS BEEN OBSERVED AS A TRANSPORTER FOR LARGE NUMBERS OF BM-11 ROCKET LAUNCHERS IN SEVERAL ASIAN, AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES (SEE INSET).

(SWN) ANALYST'S COMMENTS -- THE NORTH KOREAN ARMY HAS NOT FIELD DEPLOYED NEW MRL UNITS SINCE THE MID-1970'S. IN 1979, THEY IMPROVED THE WEAPONS SYSTEMS IN AT LEAST FOUR REGIMENTAL-SIZED UNITS BY REMOVING THE WEAPON FROM THE OLDER AND SMALLER TRUCK CHASSIS AND INSTALLING IT ON A LARGER CHASSIS. THESE CHANGES TOOK PLACE IN THE UNIT GARRISONS.

(SWN) THE ABSENCE OF ANY RECENT NEW FIELD DEPLOYMENT OF MRL, THE PRECEDENT FOR NOT USING TAE-RI PRODUCED WEAPONS SYSTEMS FOR LARGE SCALE REPLACEMENTS WITHIN THE UNITS, PLUS THE USE OF THE REGULARLY EXPORTED ISUZU TRUCK CHASSIS SUGGESTS THAT THE NEWLY PRODUCED MRL'S AT TAE-RI ARE FOR EXPORT. [REDACTED]

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3. (S) [REDACTED] COORDINATES 38-50-25N 125-30-36E

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Intelligence Sources
and Methods Involved

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